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FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE (SECRET) AND  
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Lord Gladwyn *UN 22912/36*  
No. 369  
September 15, 1960

D: 2.25 p.m. September 15, 1960  
R: 2.30 p.m. September 15, 1960

IMMEDIATE  
SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 369 of September 15.  
Repeated for information to U.K. Mission New York

Washington  
Moscow

and Saving to:

U.K. Del. N.A.T.O.

U.K. Mission New York telegram No. 777: Attendance of Heads of Government at the United Nations.

After the farewell dinner which he gave for me last night, General de Gaulle talked to me about this matter. He said that French policy had of course been decided. In no circumstances whatever would he himself attend the United Nations. The delegation would be led by the Foreign Minister and he would probably only stay for a short time, handing over to the French Permanent Delegate. Generally speaking, the French would play a very minor part during the Assembly and would indeed probably remain entirely in the background.

2. The appearance of Mr. Khrushchev and his friends, together with the Heads of Government of a number of "uncommitted" States would of course be annoying, but the best tactics for the West would surely have been to ignore such manifestations altogether and to treat the whole proceedings with cold disdain. For this reason he had been particularly upset to hear that the President of the United States had now changed his mind and was proposing to speak during the general debate. He could not himself believe that a speech by President Eisenhower would tilt the balance much in our favour. Anyhow, there it was. The only hope now was that President Eisenhower should make one speech and go away - it was to be hoped without meeting Mr. Khrushchev.

3. Quite frankly, he continued, the question now seemed to be whether the Prime Minister would go. For himself, he sincerely trusted that the Prime Minister would not do so, and he definitely asked me to pass this request on. What in any case, did I think were the Prime Minister's present intentions? I replied that so far as I knew the Prime Minister was not going to New York but that it was evident that pressure in favour of his going was building up in the United Kingdom and that such pressure would be heavily reinforced if, as seemed quite probable, several Commonwealth Heads of Government decided to attend the general debate. General de Gaulle observed rather gloomily that he quite understood that

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this might be so, but he repeated that he sincerely hoped that the Prime Minister would stand up to such pressure.

4. I think it is clear that if our object is to "ménager" the General we now have it in our power to give him something which he particularly wants, namely the non-attendance of the Prime Minister in New York. Whether he would be grateful if satisfaction were given to him on this point I cannot say. More likely he would take it merely as indicating that the Prime Minister had recognized the essential correctness of his own position.

Foreign Office please pass U.K. Mission New York 41,  
Washington 95, Moscow 31.

[Repeated as requested.]

ADVANCE COPIES:

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